(क) वर्ष 1988-89 के दौरान प्रत्येक राज्य के लिये कपास उत्पादन का क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ;

(ख) सफेद मक्खी की वजह से कपास उत्पादकों को हुई हानि के लिये उन्हें किस तरह की वित्तीय सहायता दी गई है और गुजरात सरकार की क्या मांग रही है और सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ; और

(ग) अगले वर्ष के लिये बनाई गई आयात-निर्यात नीति का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि संराज्य में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्याम लाल यादव) : (क) एक विवरण-पत्र संलग्न है। **(नीचे देखिए)**

(ख) कपास की फसल को सफेद मक्खी सहित कीटों के प्रकोप से बचाने के लिये 1989-90 के दौरान केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित गहन कपास विकास कार्यक्रम के तहत एक प्रावधान किया गया है। गुजरात सरकार ने सफेद मक्खी की वजह से हुई हानि हेतु कोई अलग मांग नहीं की है।

(ग) अगले वर्ष के लिये आयात-निर्यात नीति के संबंध में निर्णय लेना अभी सही नहीं है।

विवरण

(170 कि० ग्राम वाली लाख गांठें)

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Use of neem products as pesticides

11641 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMl: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express of the 27th June, 1989 about British researchers attempt to produce synthetic versions of neem products as pesticides;

(b) if go, the details thereof and what are the possibilities for large-scale production of such products; and

(c) whether Government propose to initiate similar intensive R&D work for commercial production of such products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British researchers are attempting to produce a synthetic version of the Azadirachtin molecule that is naturally present in the neem tree. The active compounds in impure neem extract degrade easily as the chemical is light sensitive. Hence, large scale production of neem-based comtxiunds has not so far been possible.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Newsprint shortage and Price Hike

©1165. SHRIMATl VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA;
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are proposed by

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Government to meet the current newsprint shortage;

(b) whether the Murari Committee has since submitted its report; if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) whether Government are also considering the grievances of the newspaper industry about the newsprint's price hike; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY); (a) Government have already decided to make available additional foreign exchange for importing newsprint to meet fully the gap between the demand and indigenous production. Indigenous newsprint mills are taking necessary steps to maintain regular production of new print so as to ensure its sustained supply t_0 newspapers.

(b) and (c) N_0 Committee known as Murari Committee was constituted. However, a Group of Secretaries comprising Of Secretaries of Industry, Finance, Commerce and Information and Broadcasting was constituted to look into the problems .relating to newsprint. On the basis of the outcome of the discussions of the Group Of Secretaries, Government have decided to make available additional foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 95 crores to import additional quantities of newsprint so as to meet the demand of newspaper industry for newsprint in full. It has also been decided to exempt small newspapers (periodicals) fully from the payment of customs duty and Medium newspapers (periodicals) to the extent of 50 per cent on glazed newsprint. The concession is available to such newspapers entitled to the glazed newsprint as per the Newsprint Allocation Policy 1989-90.

Increase in the prices of aluminium by its primary producers

1166. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES b_e pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Primary producers $_0$f Aluminium increased the prices of aluminium metal to international level immediately after decontrol of aluminium on 1-3-89;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that due to, temporary lower international prices of aluminium, primary producers have represented to Government for imposing duty on Import of aluminium;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to direct the primary producers to reduce their prices to bring it alongwith international level so that the aluminium consumers are benefited; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD); (a) After aluminium decontrol on 1-3-89 th_e primary producers increased the price of Primary aluminium metal by about Rs. 2,000—Rs. 3,000 per tonne in order to cover the increase in the cost of production mainly due to increase in the cost of Coal and Railway freight.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Several representations have also been received from industry against any proposal for imposition of customs duty and suitable action will be taken after consideration of all the representations at the appropriate time.

Since price of aluminium has been decontrolled with effect from' 1-3-89, the question issue of directions in the matter does not arise.